

**From:** Cheng, Gloria (DPH)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2010 2:24 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Beverly (DPH); Belanger, Peter (DPH); BPHC Em Prep Director; Brown, Catherine (DPH); Caloggero, Dina (DPH); Capps, Elizabeth (DPH); Carter, Deborah (DPH); Cheng, Gloria (DPH); Church, Daniel (DPH); Clark, Mary (DPH); Clarke, Roberta (DPH); Conley, Caryn (DPH); Connolly, Lawrence; Crowell, Danielle (DPH); DeMaria, Alfred (DPH); DiNatale, Margaret (DPH); Elvin, Paul (DPH); EMS liaison BRIC; Feeney, Mike (DPH); Gauthier, Cheryl (DPH); Gillis, John (DPH); Gordon, Gideon; Greer, Garry (DPH); Hall, Joshua (DPH); Han, Linda (DPH); Hennigan, Scott (DPH); Hussin, Ayman (DPH); Jenner, Jennifer (DPH); Joshi, Archana (DPH); Kane01, Peter (DPH); Kludt, Patricia (DPH); Konomi, Raimond (DPH); Krumholz, Glenn (DPH); LeClair, Erika (DPH); Madoff, Larry (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Noddin, Linwood (DPH); Orsini, Olivia (DPH); Riggs, Ambryce (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH); Serrallier, Elizabeth (DPH); Servizio, Paul (DPH); Smole, Sandra (DPH); Stiles, Tracy (DPH); Stone, Samantha (DPH); Swanson, Tanya (DPH); Szymczak, Elizabeth (DPH); Condon, Cynthia (DPH); cynthia.condon@state.ma.us; Glenn, Lynda (DPH)  
**Subject:** Minutes for 08/03/2010 BTCT Meeting  
**Attachments:** Lynda.Glenn.Aug03.2010.p1.jpg; Lynda.Glenn.Aug03.2010.p2.jpg

**Dear All,**

**Thanks to all those tireless prolific pens, here comes the fruit of your labor.**

**THANK YOU ALL!!!**

**Have a fantastic weekend! Enjoy.**

**Gloria**

<b>BT/CT Meeting Minutes</b>		MA Department of Public Health	
		Bureau of Laboratory Sciences	
Date:	August 03, 2010		
Start Time:	10:07 AM	End Time:	11:40 AM
Location:	William A. Hinton State Lab	Room:	133
Attendees:			
Tracy Stiles, Danielle Crowell, Lynda Glenn, Cheryl Gauthier, Julie Nassif, Linwood Noddin, Pete Kane, Jennifer Jenner, Deborah Carter, Gloria Cheng.			
Recorded by:	Gloria Cheng		
Notes:	Special Announcement:		
	(1) Deb Carter is kindly taking on the duty of BT/CT Minutes for September 2010.		
	(2) Need additional volunteers from more groups for the responsibility of Meeting Minutes.		
<b>Minutes</b>			
Agenda item:	Discussion of HHAN	Presenter:	Deb Carter
Discussion:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While working on Sentinel Lab survey and registration letter, question of whether to retain the item with regard to Health &amp; Home Alert Network (HHAN) came up. Would like more input &amp; suggestions.</li> <li>- Tier-structured tool to alarm first responders, hospitals, labs. Site is invited.</li> <li>- Good way to get information out quickly. Used to be effective way to alert people.</li> <li>- Overuse has become an issue.</li> <li>- Sign-up is person specific not organization specific.</li> <li>- Used during flu.</li> </ul>			
Conclusions:	Ciranna Bird may have more information.		
Action items		Person responsible	Target Date
1. ✓	Ask Ciranna Bird for more information.	Deb Carter	open
2. ✓			
3. ✓			
Agenda item:	Meeting with HHS Policy Analyst	Presenter:	Julie Nassif
Discussion:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Met with HHS Policy Analyst and a few CST members the day before.</li> <li>- Talked to Policy Analyst about the sulfur mustard fishermen incident. Learned that MEMA didn't get the report until the day after the report was out.</li> <li>- CST is going to have an exercise in May 2011. Bio Chem. Rad. Exercise will have 3 components: (1) Mass casualty in urban environment at some abandoned building site; (2) Some vessel will be involved at Mass Maritime; (3) Third element is environmental surveillance. The exercise will involve some survey of environment.</li> <li>- Scenario has not yet been written.</li> <li>- Offered for us to engage in the exercise &amp; to work with them.</li> <li>- Ideas discussed included: (1) Do split samples; (2) Test communications, such as email spectra, photos, etc.; (3) Energy EP Bureau.</li> </ul>			
Conclusions:	Need to engage Emergency Preparedness in drills to improve communication with them.		
Action items		Person responsible	Target Date
4. ✓	Invite MEMA to meeting.	Julie Nassif	ASAP
5. ✓			
Agenda item:	Epidemiology Update	Presenter:	Lynda Glenn

## Discussion:

- Aerial spray is planned for this week. Incoming calls & communications from the public will be handled as follows:
- Human disease from mosquitoes including West Nile and EEE will be routed to standard on-call system. Calls will be logged in & answered by the on-call epidemiologist within 1 hour.
- Pesticides questions will be directed to BEH.
- Questions about animals and diseases or animals and pesticides will be directed to Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health, also at front end.
- Questions about town mosquito activities and request for spray will be directed to local Board of Health or to the following web site: [www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/districts.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/mosquito/districts.htm).
- Listing of the towns that will be partially or all sprayed is attached.
- Julie Nassif added that spray is scheduled for Wednesday, but weather may be inappropriate. Delay possible.
- Answered question about the mosquito season: had mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile & EEE early in the season. Fewer mosquitoes around this season because of the weather pattern, but higher numbers of infected.
- A horse tested EEE positive 2 weeks ago, cause of great concern.
- No human illness at this time.

Conclusions: Mosquito season earlier than usual this year.

## Action items

Person responsible

## Target Date

6. ✓

## Agenda item: Cranberry Sample Testing

Presenter: Julie Nassif

## Discussion:

- BEH has a contract with a private lab to test cranberries pre and post spray.
- Chemistry Lab is requested to assist with just freezing the cranberries and then shipping them off to California.
- There will be two samplings: Pre-spray and post-spray, 48 hours after the spray.
- Not sure if spray will be on schedule for Wednesday because of the concern with wind drift.
- Will minimize spray over water bodies deliberately due to its high toxicity to fish, though not very toxic to mammals.

Conclusions: Expect cranberry samples soon in the lab for freezing and shipping.

## Action items

Person responsible

## Target Date

7. ✓ Receiving cranberry samples for freezing and shipping.

Analy. Chem. Staff

soon

8. ✓

## Agenda item: Section Updates - Bacteriology

Presenter: Tracy Stiles

## Discussion:

- For the final FERN Triage Exercise, received 5 samples with no paperwork.
- Worked with molecular people. Processed on Wednesday. Tested for everything.
- Had good results at the end of last week. Finishing up now.
- Participated in real time reporting.
- Toxin positive. PCR positive. Instructed to email to FERN. No feedback yet. Don't know if correct or not.
- Will submit all results later this week, once all the plates are done.
- Olivia is going to National Triage Meeting in CA next week – Final wrap up of the Triage Exercise. Final project moving forward is using participating labs as training partners to get the rest of the country trained.
- Answered questions and explained the Triage Exercise.
- Theory behind the Triage project was looking for streamline protocol for testing any agent of food for some unknown pathogen in response to threat. Pathogen is unknown.
- Have done a number of exercises in the last couple of years. Started with small group of organisms. Expanded overtime. Last week was the final piece that included everything.
- Only 4 states was involved in the Triage and know how to do the tests.
- Will train the rest of the country.

Conclusions: FERN Triage Project is wrapping up.

## Action items

Person responsible

## Target Date

9. ✓

## Agenda item: Section Updates – BT Lab

Presenter: Cheryl Gauthier

## Discussion:

- BT Lab has been busy. Has had several BT r/o's from sentinel labs
- Sweater made of organic peruvian yarn was negative for anthrax.
- Last week had white powder inside threat letter incident. Happened on Monday in Templeton, MA. Involved someone recently indicted on drugs who has been receiving verbal threats from other drug dealers.
- Culture negative. BT testing negative. Sent the powder to CT Lab. Powder was identified as CS agent, a chemical substance in tear gas used in riot control.
- Received notification on Friday about a researcher who self inoculated themselves with plague while injecting a mouse.
- Another drill for BT/CT 24/7 phone in August. Pilot exercise that incorporates Epi. Will drill twice/year. Scripted.
- CDC Emergency Response Operation Center will call the 24/7 phone & talk to knowledgeable person. That person will call Epi on-call. Epi is required to call CDC back within 15 minutes. Exercise does not end until Epi calls back.
- Forwarded email to Epi staff including Dan Church, et al.
- Need to draft SOP for Chain of Custody
- Current problem is that last receiving person may not be available to relinquish the sample for testing, transfer or pick-up.
- To solve the problem, need an SOP that will designate evidence custodians who can act in lieu of the last person who actually received samples.

Conclusions: (1) CDC BT/CT phone drill in August. (2) Revise SOP to update COC procedure.

## Action items

Person responsible

## Target Date

10. ✓ Be ready for the phone drill including Epi.

BT, CT, Epi Staffs

August

11. ✓ Will draft an SOP to update COC procedure &amp; ask Brooks to take a look.

Cheryl Gauthier &amp; Jennifer Jenner

Open

12. ✓

Agenda item:	Section Updates – CT Lab	Presenter:	Pete Kane
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgrading computers &amp; softwares in the lab to improve network fluidity. Trying to streamline process.</li> <li>- Testing the new system along with PTs now.</li> <li>- Building a new interface for ICP/MS metal's group. New software ordered. Will speed up data handling.</li> </ul>		
Conclusions:	Upgrades going well.		
Action items		Person responsible	Target Date
13. ✓			
Agenda item:	Updates – BT Lab	Presenter:	Deb Carter
Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Getting up to speed in packaging &amp; shipping. Read Federal Register sections pertaining to packaging &amp; shipping.</li> <li>- Made a call to Josh Rowland to get information about Pat Pane and to schedule for next spring. Call scheduled for next day at 11.</li> <li>- Getting ready to send out letters and surveys to the Sentinel Labs.</li> </ul>		
Conclusions:	Progressing accordingly.		
Action items		Person responsible	Target Date
14. ✓			
<i>Other Information</i>			
Special notes:			
Handouts from Lynda Glenn are attached. Thank you, Lynda!			